

## Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for compressing data, comprising the steps of:  
analyzing a data block of an input data stream to identify ~~a data type~~ one or more data types of the data block, the input data stream comprising a plurality of disparate data types;  
performing content dependent data compression ~~on the data block~~, if ~~the~~ a data type of the data block is identified;  
performing ~~content independent~~ data compression ~~on the data block~~ with a single data compression encoder, if ~~the~~ a data type of the data block is not identified.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising outputting a compressed data block.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising appending a data compression type descriptor to a compressed data block.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising outputting the compressed data block with the appended data compression type descriptor.

26. (New) A method for compressing data, comprising the steps of:  
analyzing a data block of an input data stream to estimate one of a plurality of data compression methods or encoders that would provide a highest compression ratio for the data block;

selecting the data compression method or encoder estimated to provide the highest compression ratio for the data block; and

compressing the data block with the selected data compression method or encoder.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising outputting the compressed data block.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising appending a data compression type descriptor to the compressed data block.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising outputting the compressed data block with the appended data compression type descriptor.

30. (New) A method for compressing data, comprising the steps of:  
analyzing a data block of an input data stream to identify a data type of the data block, the input data stream comprising a plurality of disparate data types,

if the data type of the data block is identified, then the method further comprising:

performing content dependent data compression to compress the data block;

comparing a content dependent data compression ratio of the compressed data block against a first threshold;

appending a data compression type descriptor to the compressed data block;

outputting the compressed data block and appended data compression type

descriptor, if the content data compression ratio is above the first threshold; and

performing data compression on the data block with a single data compression encoder, if the content dependent data compression ratio is not above the first threshold.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein if the data type of the data block is not identified, then the method further comprising:

performing data compression with a single default data compression encoder to compress the data block;

comparing a default data compression ratio of the compressed data block against a second threshold;

if the default data compression ratio is below the second threshold, then appending a null data compression type descriptor to the data block and outputting the data block and appended null data compression type descriptor; and

if the default data compression ration is above the second threshold, then appending a default data compression type descriptor to the compressed data block and outputting the compressed data block and appended default data compression type descriptor.